

THOMPSON VILLAGER

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©2025, Issue #49
Friday, December 5, 2025

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Killingly Town Council honors Teachers of the Year



Joelle Guillot (left), Chris Sullivan (center), and Lisa Boguszewski (right) were recently honored as the Killingly’s Teachers of the Year by Town Council Chair Jason Anderson.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly School District has announced its 2025 teachers of the year, who in turn were recognized by the Town Council on Nov. 18.

The Council acknowledged Joelle Guillot as Killingly Public Schools Teacher of the Year, Chris Sullivan and the honoree for H.H. Ellis Technical

High School Teacher of the Year, and Lisa Boguszewski as Teacher of the Year from St. James Parochial School. Each educator was given their time in the spotlight, with Council Chair Jason Anderson reading special proclamations detailing their histories and accomplishments in their respective schools.

Joelle Guillot, a first grade teacher, was named Teacher of the Year for the

Killingly School District proper with her proclamation acknowledging her passion for teaching and learning and her reputation as an inspiration for her students. As an educator she works to instill a love for reading and writing that helps prepare the authors and booklovers of tomorrow.

“She has inspired in her students a genuine love, of reading and writing, guiding them to become confident, joyful readers and writers who carry their skills far beyond the classroom,” read the proclamation. “Her read-alouds are described as magical, bringing stories and characters to life while nurturing comprehension, empathy, and imagination”

In accepting her award, Guillot shared her appreciation for the district and the family legacy that has instilled a lifelong passion

for education.

“It is an honor to teach in Killingly and I have been here for over 30 years and my mom taught for 32 years so I really love being in Killingly. I love the school

and administration and the town that I work in,” said Guillot.

The next honoree was Chris Sullivan, the Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School Teacher of the Year

who has taught in the school since 2018 leaning on more than 20 years of experience in the automotive trade. Sullivan was compliment-

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Vernon Wilson named Thompson’s Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — Vernon L. Wilson of Denis Drive in the Wilsonville Village of North Grosvenordale has been selected by the nominating committee to be recognized and honored as the December 2025 Veteran of the Month for the Town of Thompson.

Korean War veteran Airman First Class Vernon Wilson served his Country proudly for four years from 1951 to 1955. He began his Military career at the Sampson Air Force Base in Geneva, N.Y., where he reported for his Basic Training in March 1951. At the completion of his basic training, he was re-assigned to the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo., where he underwent extensive advanced training in electronics and as a power man. This is where he mastered his craft that not only served him well during his military career, but for his entire professional career as a civilian employee. His civilian career began at General Motors in Framingham, Mass., followed by employment at the Heald Machine Company in Worcester, and eventually was employed for 34 years with the Connecticut Light and Power Company in Danielson as a Journey Lineman rising to Chief Forman and Supervisor. In 1980, he became the tree coordinator for CL&P. In 1985, he was promoted to the position of ASL (Operation Manager) until his retirement in 1991.

At the completion of Wilson’s advanced military training in Wyoming, he was transferred to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where was stationed for a year before being deployed to Korea in March 1953. During his tour of duty in Korea, Airman First Class Wilson was assigned numerous electrical projects, supervising the installation of electrical systems for unit compounds, maintenance shops and supply warehouses, in addition to wiring up high voltage generators used as a source of power for the 811th Engineer Aviation Battalion often under very hostile conditions.

His Supervising Officer, Lt. Raymond Henkel, wrote that “Airman First Class Vernon Wilson has served with courage, efficiently and effectively as the Senior Electrician of his unit since his arrival in Korea.”

Lt. Henkel went on to write that “often, due to the lack of proper electrical materials, unobtainable in the Korean Theatre, numerous problems were encountered by Airman Wilson which he coped with very efficiently.”

Upon Wilson’s return to the United States, he was again assigned to Sampson Air Force Base and for 12 months was engaged on a special survey to obtain electrical riser

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Thompson Turkey Trot sees near record-breaking success

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Thompson’s annual Turkey Trot had one of its biggest years in recent memory, bringing in near record numbers and new sponsorships to support the long-running seasonal tradition.

The Centreville Bank Thompson Turkey Trot 5k Trail Race & 3k Walk held Nov. 9 saw nearly 200 runners take to the trails around the Thompson Dam on one of the most beautiful days the event has ever seen. Proceeds from the event Thompson Trails, Thompson Parks & Recreation, and TEEG’s Community Market.

Brian Loffredo, a member of both the Thompson Economic Development Committee and Thompson Trails Committee, gave his initial update on the event during the EDC’s Nov. 19 meeting where he acknowledged the perfect conditions and the high number of participants that made the 2025 one of the Trot’s best years so far.

“I was particularly proud of this year’s performance. I almost feel like this was peak Turkey Trot. The weather was outstanding,” said Loffredo. “You couldn’t ask for a better fall day to run the race, and the rain came after everyone was gone and

Turn To TROT page A11

Thanksgiving victory propels Killingly football to another undefeated season



KILLINGLY — Killingly (10-0) completed its second straight undefeated regular season with at 67-13 win over Woodstock Academy (3-7) Thanksgiving morning.

The Trailblazers jumped out to a 28-0 lead with Quinn Sumner (5-7, 85 yds, 2 TD’s) connecting with Hunter Allard (4 catches, 78 yards) twice in the 1st quarter, while Sumner added a

2-yard touchdown run, and Hayden Allard scored from eight yards out. Woodstock answered with an Elijah Poh 13-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Harris to make it 28-6. On the ensuing kickoff, Aiden Lamotte electrified the crowd with a 67-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to make it 35-6 after one.

Hunter Allard then added an interception return for

a touchdown to start the 2nd quarter, Hayden Allard added 2 more rushing touchdowns and Joseph Mackie added a 20-yard score to make it 61-6 at the half.

Killingly started the second half with a Hunter Allard fumble recovery for a 55-yard touchdown return. Hunter finished the day with 2 touchdown receptions, an interception and

fumble recovery for td’s. Woodstock added another touchdown in the 3rd on a 71-yard touchdown pass from Poh to Griffen Brown.

Killingly was slated to play Ellington in the first round of the Class SS’ Playoffs Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. This is Killingly’s 10th straight trip to the playoffs, and they will look to defend last year’s state title.

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs announces December workshops



DANIELSON — Celebrate the holidays with Mountain Laurel Floral Designs, a locally owned flower and gift shop in the heart of Danielso. This December, the shop is hosting a festive lineup of holiday-inspired events, from ornament making to swag decorating and even a free holiday story hour. “We can’t wait to host our holiday workshops, especially the ornament making studio on Dec. 16. Gabby and I love crafting and we’re excited to have a full lineup of ornaments for the community to make that day. Plus, we’ll have cookie decorating with Crumby Creations and ornament engraving with Modern Sawdust, so there will be something for everyone,” said co-owner Pam Blinten. If you would like to participate in one of these workshops, visit mountainlaurelfloralct.com to learn more and register.

December Workshops
Holiday Swag Decorating
Dec. 7 | 1 – 3 p.m.
\$60 - Design your own festive door or wall piece using our pre-made swags and a variety of seasonal trimmings. Enjoy decorating with dried fruits, berries, acorns, pinecones, and ribbon!

Free Story Hour with Elle Jordyn Sherman

Community Calendar December 5–12

Here in our corner where cold winds blow, December brings cheer with a soft, gentle glow. So bundle up warmly and step out with pride— Events fill the week across the Quiet Corner wide.

Friday, Dec. 6
At Putnam Library, come craft and create, Holiday ornaments from 4 to 6 — don’t be late.
In Woodstock’s Town Hall, at 7, you’ll find, A chorus performance to settle the mind.

Saturday, Dec. 7
The Killingly Grange hosts a winter bazaar, From 9 until 2, with vendors from near and far.
Over in Pomfret, the Audubon crew Leads a “Frost Feathers Walk” at 10 under skies crisp and blue.

Sunday, Dec. 8
At Thompson Library, families may meet For a cookie swap party at 1 — bring a treat.
While Brooklyn’s Creamery Brook sets lanterns aglow
On a twilight trail stroll at 4, soft and slow.

Monday, Dec. 9
A knitting night gathers at Putnam’s Arts Center,
At 6—all skill levels invited to enter.
In Eastford, the senior lunch hums along,
At noon, with warm cider and a holiday song.

Tuesday, Dec. 10
The Woodstock PTO meets at 6:30 sharp, Planning winter programs with diligence and heart.
Meanwhile Killingly Parks & Rec, at 7, will explain
Upcoming ski trips and activities again.

Wednesday, Dec. 11
In Thompson, a kids’ craft at 4, ribbons and glue—
A workshop to make something festive and new.
The Pomfret Senior Center then brightens the night
With bingo at 6, under warm amber light.

Thursday, Dec. 12
At Putnam’s Municipal Complex, the tree stands tall,
As carolers gather at 6 to welcome us all.
And in Brooklyn, the Historical Society will share
Local stories at 7, with cocoa to spare.
So roam through the week with delight and goodwill—
There’s magic in each Quiet Corner town and hill.

Dec. 13 | 9 - 10 a.m.
Free - Join Elle Jordyn Sherman for a fun holiday story hour featuring stories from our local authors and festive activities!

Open Art Studio: Ornament Making
Dec. 16 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Price Based on Ornaments Made - We’re turning the shop into Santa’s Workshop! Drop by any time to make a variety of ornaments, from felt ornaments to paper snowflakes. Plus, Crumby Creations will be joining for cookie decorating and Modern Sawdust will be engraving ornaments for personalized gifts and decor!

Killingly Public Library Dried Flower Ornaments
Dec. 19 | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Free - Sponsored by KPL - Create a beautiful keepsake at our dried flower ornament class!
Learn how to arrange and seal real pressed flowers into stunning ornaments. Great for gifts or home décor. Sign up through the library.

Dec. 16 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Price Based on Ornaments Made - We’re turning the shop into Santa’s Workshop! Drop by any time to make a variety of ornaments, from felt ornaments to paper snowflakes. Plus, Crumby Creations will be joining for cookie decorating and Modern Sawdust will be engraving ornaments for personalized gifts and decor!

Holiday Centerpiece Arranging
Dec. 21 | 4 - 6 p.m.
\$75 - Create an elegant centerpiece to elevate your holiday table with effortless style.

About Mountain Laurel Floral Designs
Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is more than a flower shop—it’s a space where community, sustainability, and artistry flourish. Owned by local flower farmers Gabby and Pam, the shop is located at 98 Main St. in Danielson, and specializes in fresh, seasonal blooms grown in southeastern New England.

Killingly VFW Auxiliary hosting annual toy collection

KILLINGLY — The VFW Post 4908 Auxiliary East Killingly is holding its seventh annual Tommy Toy Collection Saturday, Dec. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be a free potluck buffet for anyone that brings a new unwrapped toy for children ages 12 and under.

The business began with a shared love of the land and a commitment to sustainable flower farming. Today, Gabby and Pam create floral arrangements that honor the rhythms of the seasons and host a variety of hands-on workshops that celebrate creativity and connection.

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A SELF-RENEWING HOPE
December 14

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December 21

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Borough of Danielson

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Request for Proposal (RFP)
Lawn Care Services for the Danielson Fire Department
47 Academy Street, Danielson, CT 06239

The Borough of Danielson is seeking sealed proposals for lawn care and landscape maintenance services for the Danielson Fire Department, 47 Academy Street, Danielson, CT.

A walkthrough will be held December 18, 2025 at 12:00 PM (rain/snow date: December 19, 2025).

Full RFP details and specifications are available at www.boroughofdanielson.org

Proposals must include an itemized cost proposal, references, and proof of insurance. Sealed proposals must be clearly marked “Landscape Proposal for DFD – Attn: Borough Administrator.” Electronic submissions will also be accepted.

Deadline: Proposals must be received by January 14, 2026 at 3:00 PM at PO Box 726, Danielson, CT 06239 or emailed to admin@boroughofdanielson.org

The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to accept the proposal deemed in its best interest.

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STRATEGIC WEALTH ADVISORS

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Finding light in a short December day

In Northeast Connecticut, December arrives quietly. The fields along Route 169 rest under a thin morning frost, the riverbanks slow, and the sun slips away earlier than we would like. This is the season when daylight grows scarce, chores finish in the dark, and even the most familiar backroads seem to tuck themselves in early.

Short days have a way of shaping the rhythm of small towns. Morning walkers shift their routines toward midday. Evening committee meetings start with headlights in the parking lot instead of twilight. School concerts and holiday fairs fill the calendar precisely because gathering together offsets the hours when sunlight is in short supply. For communities like the ones that make up the Quiet Corner, this time of year is not defined by darkness so much as the ways people work around it.

What stands out every year is how resourceful these communities are. When daylight fades, porch lights come on early. When cold settles in, neighbors offer rides, check in on older residents, and drop groceries or medications on doorsteps without fanfare. When nights grow long, local libraries, churches, and senior centers extend a warm welcome with programs designed to bring people out of isolation and into shared spaces.

The season also reminds us that small gestures carry extra weight. A single light in a window of a farmhouse in Woodstock Valley or the glow of Main Street storefronts in Putnam feels more meaningful in December. A greeting exchanged outside the post office carries a little more warmth. Even routine acts — attending a choral performance, supporting a scout troop’s fundraiser, buying a wreath from a local church — take on a renewed sense of purpose as the natural world grows dimmer.

There is something steadying about this region’s annual response to winter. Residents do not rush the season; they adapt to it. They understand that long nights are temporary, that light returns gradually, and that communities, like families, grow stronger when people continue to show up for one another.

This year, as the sun sinks early and December wraps our towns in its subdued palette, it is worth recognizing the quiet resilience that defines life here. It shows itself in school gyms filled for concerts, in library rooms lit for craft nights, in community suppers where coats stay on the backs of chairs, and in the simple willingness of residents to keep venturing out, even on the coldest evenings.

The coming weeks will bring gatherings, holiday events, and time for reflection. As we enter this season, may the short days encourage us not to retreat inward, but to reach outward. Light is found not only in the sky, but in the places where neighbors make it — wherever they gather, support one another, and remain connected through the longest nights of the year.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The gap between loyalty and honor

To the Editor:

Throughout Donnie Tyrant’s reign, there has been a growing schism between “honor” and “loyalty.” He demands loyalty, but does not know that honor is a superior concept that overrides what is used to justify loyalty.

The main reason Donnie has no honor, nor does he value honor in his followers, is because there is no money in it. With loyalty to a leader, being a sycophant rewards you with money and power. However, an honorable person making decisions

is not motivated by money but tries to separate right from wrong. The reward here is within that person as satisfaction having done a moral and right thing. There is also the reward of being known as a reputable person who is not driven by greed or self-serving ambition, i.e., a trustworthy person who can be relied on. Donnie Tyrant fails every measure of being an honorable person.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

When the workforce is 80 percent women, loan limits hurt the workers we need

To the Editor:

“The American dream, you have to be asleep to believe it!” (George Carlin)

For many women, the dream is becoming more like a nightmare. Women’s rights have faced significant setbacks under the current Administration. As more of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) is implemented women are feeling its consequences. The OBBBA plans to strip the “Professional” status from key degrees at the core of public service: Nursing, Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, Audiologists, Architects, Accountants, Educators, and Social Workers.

It is difficult to make sense of this when many of these fields have been short staffed for years, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. Take nursing and education for example. Federal projections show a shortage of 78,610 full time registered nurses in 2025 and 63,720 in 2030. When it comes to teachers, the country is currently facing an estimated shortage of more than 411,000.

Under the OBBBA policy change, starting July 1, 2026, Graduate and Professional Students will face new borrowing limits. One of the most striking aspects of this change is its disproportionate effect on women in these professions:

Profession	Percent Women
Registered Nurses	87.9 percent
Physical Therapists	70.2 percent
Physician Assistants	67.7 percent
Speech Language Pathologists	97.6 percent
Occupational Therapists	85.9 percent
Licensed Social Workers	83.9 percent
Education and Teacher Prep	77.0 percent

The Education Department plans to publish the regulatory language for the affected fields and the borrowing limits in the Federal Register early next year. If you have concerns, that is your chance to speak up during the public comment

period before the rule is finalized.

Key milestones over the coming months will determine the rule’s fate:

NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) Release: Confirms which degrees retain the professional designation

Public Comment Period: Universities, associations, unions, and individuals provide feedback

Final Rule Implementation: If approved, new borrowing limits take effect July 1, 2026

The potential impact is significant. Students entering nursing, social work, teacher-preparation, or allied-health programs after that date could face sharply reduced federal aid, creating ripple effects across enrollment, workforce shortages, and public-service delivery.

This rule may have far-reaching consequences for gender equity, public-service sectors, and student access. By redefining which degrees are “professional,” the Department of Education could reshape who can afford to pursue careers in nursing, teaching, social work, allied health, and public health, sectors critical to the functioning of American society.

The debate now centers not just on fiscal policy but on the future of essential workforces and the equitable access of students, particularly women, to higher education and public-service careers.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Legal or congressional action could follow, particularly if the gendered consequences gain national attention.

We need Nurses, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistants, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers and Teachers, and they need us to stand with them. Let your representatives know these fields deserve professional status and fair access to borrowing. Eighty percent of the workforce should not be pushed out of careers the American people depend on.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Historical parallels

To the Editor:

The PBS series “The American Revolution” is a valuable source of information for anyone studying U.S. history. I remember being taught a much more sanitized and over-simplified version back in my school days. Our founding fathers were always portrayed as larger than life figures to be revered for their unquestionable character. In reality, they were just flawed human beings like all of us. Many were slave-owners, some were racists, but despite their differences (and at tremendous personal risk) they worked together to create our great nation.

The series also shows many parallels to our current divisive political climate. We’re living in very dangerous and unsettling times, and I don’t think our forefathers would be happy or approve. Trump and his minions have done plenty of damage, and could do a lot more before they’re done, but I believe history will show them to be nothing more than a small and insignificant footnote in the story of our great country.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Science is very much a matter of faith

To the Editor:

Some thoughts relating to Dave Clark’s interesting letter in the Nov. 28 edition of the Villager (which itself is a response to the Nov. 21 letter from The Rev. Phil Cannistraci, Sr.):

There are many scientists (physicists in particular) who would disagree with the statement “that the universe is understandable and that everything can be explained, even if it currently is not.” Nature seems to recede from any new theoretical knowledge we map onto it, ever presenting new mysteries that cannot be explained by current science.

claim. If it’s not a scientific claim, then it exists in the realm of faith, just like religious belief.

Any theory that attempts to define what happened across billions of years is not falsifiable, because an experiment to test the hypothesis cannot be performed.

This even applies to Climate Change hypotheses that say today’s global warming is human-induced. We cannot turn the clock back to 1600, put that Earth into a box, somehow manipulate it so people in that world didn’t invent and use new forms of energy, and see what the 2025 climate turns out to be within that box. Everyone believes ice ages happened, and that when dinosaurs lived the Earth was very hot. Almost no one denies that climate changes. To wonder how much of the current warming is due to human activity is not to “deny” that climate changes.

Philosophically, much of what we call “belief in science” is really faith in unfalsifiable hypotheses — which puts it in the same category as religious belief.

KEVIN FARNHAM
POMFRET

New dog

After many years without owning a dog, I found one just for me. Through a friend, who first introduced my family to pugs, I contacted a breeder near Cape Cod. Back and forth we went writing about my



NANCY WEISS

interest in getting another pug and her kennel of dogs, most of them champions. Sometimes breeders prefer not to sell puppies to older people and I was upfront about my age. The kennel owner wasn’t worried as we are about the same age. She has 16 pugs under her care

Soon, my husband and I were driving to meet a seven-year-old female former champion. I had a new crate, toys, a harness, and a leash. But was I really ready for the commitment, complexity and emotional entanglements of another dog?

Dogs figure prominently in the work of some of my favorite authors. The poet Mary Oliver wrote “Dog Songs,” an entire book about her dogs. I can’t find the book in my personal library, and think I must have given it to a friend when she lost a dog. It is the best gift when someone is grieving as it allows the floodgates of sadness to open and release.

Sigrid Nunez had a best seller, “The Friend” about a woman who is given a Great Dane when her best friend dies. The two bond over their shared grief in a sweet way that saves them both. Great Danes have a special sweetness in their hugeness.

E.B. White could really touch the heart and draw a laugh when he wrote about animals. His granddaughter, Martha White, collected all the pieces he wrote about dogs into one book, “E.B. White on Dogs.” I especially like stories about Fred, his dachshund, who was a feisty little creature. Fred wasn’t above taking a bite of a pants leg.

In a dark movie theatre, I sobbed along with most of the other kids to the story of “Old Yeller.” The book was in my school library and I cried alone when reading it in my bed, but the 1957 Disney film adaptation was more powerful than anything I had seen. It made me avoid dog movies for years. Of course, Rin Tin Tin and Lassie made me dream of adventures that even girls could have if in the company of brave, intelligent dogs.

My little dog, Gemma, is a strange form of dog. She is fawn-colored with black markings and sheds like a buffalo. Her breathing is raspy when she is quiet and very dramatic when she is excited. It reminds me of my late father, who had emphysema. Her face is cute to me, but resembles an alien to others. Her soft ears hang purposelessly. Her breath is almost fetid. Only her tail is an accurate indicator of her mood. Tail down, not good. Tail up, ecstasy. She is an enthusiastic eater like most dogs, but her truncated snout makes eating and drinking a messy business. In a matter of days, she seems to have fallen in love with me and I with her

But there is always more to a story. The breeder said Gemma has dry eye. So do I. We can share the eye drops, but for the pug, her condition seems a bit more serious than mine. She acts almost blind. She walks close to my left leg and doesn’t need a leash in the yard. She is very cautious on steps and peers into the evening darkness with an anxious stare. My daughter laughed that rather than a therapy dog for a person, I am the therapy person for the dog.

2025 tax filing: What to expect & why to prepare before this year ends

I know, we haven’t even passed the holiday season yet, never mind tax season. But it’ll be here before you know it, and getting ahead of it now can save you significant time, stress, and money. Whether you’re an early filer or someone who waits until the deadline, understanding what to expect and taking proactive steps now is sure to make the entire process smoother, and may even save you some money. Here’s what to know.

Key tax season dates for 2026
The IRS typically begins accepting tax returns in late January, with the 2026 tax season expected to open around late January 2026. The filing deadline for your 2025 tax return will be Tuesday, April 15, 2026. If you need more time, you can request an automatic six-month extension, pushing your filing deadline to Oct. 15, 2026, though this doesn’t extend your payment deadline.

For those who make quarterly estimated tax payments, the fourth quarter 2025 payment is due January 15, 2026. Missing these deadlines can result in penalties and interest charges, so mark your calendar now.

What’s new for taxes this year: The One Big, Beautiful Bill Act

The biggest tax news for 2025 is the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law in July 2025. This



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deduction and the existing additional standard deduction for seniors.

Here’s what this means in practice: A married couple both age 65 or older could potentially claim a combined standard deduction of up to \$46,700 in 2025, which includes the base standard deduction of \$31,500, plus the existing additional deduction of \$3,200, plus the new \$12,000 senior deduction.

However, this generous deduction does phase out. It begins to reduce for single filers with modified adjusted gross income over \$75,000 and married couples filing jointly over \$150,000, phasing out completely at \$175,000 and \$250,000 respectively.

Strategic planning opportunities for seniors: This temporary increase in standard deductions creates unique planning opportunities for those 65 and older, particularly for 2025-2028. Consider strategies such as:

Roth conversions: With higher deductions available, converting traditional IRA funds to Roth IRAs could be done at lower effective tax rates during this window.

Income timing: If you have control over when you receive income, concentrating it during these years when deductions are higher could reduce your overall tax burden.

Capital gains realization: The increased deductions create more “tax space” to realize capital gains while staying in lower tax brackets.

Essential documents you’ll need

One of the biggest obstacles to timely tax filing is scrambling to locate necessary documents at the last minute. Start gathering these items now:

Income documentation: W-2 forms from employers, 1099 forms for contract work, investment income statements, retirement account distributions, Social Security benefits statements, and any other income sources.

Deduction and credit records: Mortgage interest statements, property tax bills, charitable donation receipts, medical expense records, student loan interest statements, child-care provider information including their tax ID number, and education expenses.

Personal information: Social Security numbers for yourself, your spouse, and dependents, bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit, and your adjusted gross income from last year’s return.

A helpful tip: pull out last year’s tax return as a reference guide. It shows what types of income you reported and any carryforward items like capital losses or charitable contribution carryovers that may still apply.

Smart preparation strategies

Organize digitally: Consider creating a dedicated folder on your computer or cloud storage for tax documents. Organize by year and category with sub-folders for income, deductions, and investment records. This makes retrieval easy when you’re ready to file.

Review life changes: Did you get married, have a child, change jobs, buy a home, or experience other significant life events in 2025? These changes can substantially impact your tax situation and may qualify you for additional deductions or credits.

Maximize retirement contributions: If you haven’t already maxed out your IRA contributions for 2025, you have until the April filing deadline to make contributions that can reduce your taxable income for the year.

Consider tax-loss harvesting: If you have investment losses, they can offset capital gains and potentially reduce your taxable income. Review your portfolio with your financial advisor to understand how this strategy might benefit you.

Working with a financial professional

While tax software has made DIY filing more accessible, working with a qualified financial advisor or tax professional offers distinct advantages. Our wealth management professionals at WHZ stay current on ever-changing tax laws (and there are plenty of the this year). They can also help to identify deductions and credits you might miss, and help you develop strategies that optimize your tax situation not just for this year but for years to come.

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Start gathering your documents today, review your financial situation for the year, and consider scheduling a consultation with a WHZ financial advisor to discuss tax-efficient strategies for both this year and beyond. Don’t let tax season catch you off guard. By taking these steps now, you’ll position yourself to file accurately and maximize your deductions and credits.

Ready to take control of your tax planning and overall financial strategy? Contact WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors today to schedule a complimentary consultation. Our team of experienced financial advisors will work with you to develop a comprehensive approach that addresses your tax concerns within the context of your broader financial goals. Visit whzwealth.com or call us at 860-928-2341 to get started.

Authored by WHZ Managing Partner, Advisory Leisl L. Langevin CFP® CDFA®. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Mellow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. Diversification does not assure a profit or protect loss in declining markets and cannot guarantee that any goal or objective will be achieved. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

legislation makes permanent many provisions from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act while introducing several new temporary deductions that could significantly impact your tax situation.

Game-changing news for those 65 and older: If you’re 65 or older, you may qualify for an additional \$6,000 deduction per person (\$12,000 for married couples where both spouses are 65 and older). This new deduction is available from 2025 through 2028 and comes on top of both the regular standard

Earth — the hidden costs of climate change

To the Editor:

At a staggering \$61 billion, the most costly fire in American history ravaged America’s second-largest city last January. Big disasters like the fires in Los Angeles, Paradise, or Texas (Smokehouse Creek, 2024) can make us numb or ambivalent to the devastation. Still, it may surprise you to learn that what you’ve seen in the headlines is only the tip of the iceberg. In his 2024 book “Slow Burn: The Hidden Costs of a Warming World,” Dr. Jisung Park explores the hidden costs that not only miss the headlines but remain largely unacknowledged by society. Park argues that many of the most profound costs of global warming are subtle, cumulative, already underway, and not perceived by most of us.

Park, an environmental and labor economist at the University of Pennsylvania, calls this phenomenon a “slow and unequal burn” — a form of chronic, long-term damage that accumulates like inflammation, gradually eroding social, economic, and human capital. Unlike sudden, headline-grabbing disasters, the aggregate costs from the slower effects of climate change are even more damaging and “on par with several times the annual profits of all Fortune 500 companies combined.” You may want to reread that quote again (as I did) for it to fully register. Added up, these largely unacknowledged costs currently shave \$7 trillion off the global economy. According to the Potsdam Institute For Climate Impact Research, by 2050 that number will climb to a staggering \$34 trillion!

Park uses a wealth of data and economic analysis to reveal the slow, insidious and costly effects of climate change in the following ways:

Health: With U.S. wildfires quadrupling in the last four decades and heat waves repeatedly shattering records, the quiet impacts on public health and the economy has swelled. Carried by wind, smoke not only poisons local communities and causes lasting respiratory illness in children — it affects regions far removed from fire zones. I noticed this myself driving through Woodstock in the summer of 2023. I was puzzled and horrified by the look and smell of the air, later learning the pollution came from Canadian fires 1,000 miles away. Within a day, Major League Baseball cancelled games as far south as Philadelphia, and New York City shut down. We can only imagine how bad it was for those who lived just a few miles downwind from the L.A. fires.

Education: Numerous studies have shown that higher temperatures and pollution impair cognitive performance and student learning. With only 42 percent of schools in the U.S. having air conditioning, some kids’ performance on an important exam might literally be dependent on the weather. For borderline students, a heat wave that shaves six or eight points off their final exam score could determine whether they graduate or, for others, whether they get accepted into their dream college. In both cases, the results can have detrimental economic impacts that last a lifetime.

Productivity: Heat and pollution has a significant effect on human physiology and physical performance. Park describes how “workers on California farms and packing facilities are 6 percent less productive on days where PM2.5 is above fifteen micrograms per cubic meter” (note: PM2.5 refers to particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter and is a prime component of wildfire smoke). In manufacturing, a day with an Air Quality Index above 100 (indicating poor air quality) can reduce productivity by 12 percent. Park stresses that losses to worker productivity due to heat and poor air quality are quietly shaving “pennies off the dollar” in lost economic output. Added up globally, these costs soar to trillions of dollars.

Crime and Social Behavior: Heat can influence behavior. Studies cited by Park show that on hotter days there are higher rates of aggression, more violent crime, and even harsher judicial sentencing (on a hot day, sentences can be twice as long as the norm, issued on a cool day). It is also believed increasing temperatures are increasing the rate of international migration.

Mortality: Hotter temperatures and air pollution are increasing mortality, especially among the sick and elderly. Research at the Doerr School of Sustainability at Stamford University, published in the Journal Nature in September, 2025, indicates 40,000 Americans per year are dying from exposure to wildfire smoke, which is on par with the number of Americans that die annually in traffic accidents. In China, studies have found that air pollution has shortened the average lifespan of a Chinese citizen by an astounding five years.

Park also explores how climate change exacerbates existing inequalities. In many U.S. cities, poorer and more marginalized neighborhoods are hotter than wealthier areas, in part because they lack green space or adequate cooling infrastructure. These disparities mean that climate change isn’t just an environmental issue — it’s one particularly harmful to the poor and most vulnerable among us.

Climate change is not just a future cataclysm but a present, insidious force that is already harming lives (especially the disadvantaged), stealing opportunities, and puncturing huge holes into our economy. By recognizing the slow, less obvious and unequal costs, we can make a stronger economic and moral case for emissions reductions. The expansion of non-polluting green energy, combined with subsidies that help businesses and households adapt, will reduce the costs to society. How long will our leaders sit by and let \$7 trillion or more of human potential gush down the drain before they start plugging the hole?

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Watch the livestream at pomfret.org/live.

Local author announces additional book signings

REGION — Putnam resident Ronald P. Coderre the author of the recently released manuscript — “The Flood of 1955,” announced the addition of four more book signing dates. According to John Miller, President of the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam, the sale from two previous book signings have exceeded expectations.

“More than a total of 60 people attended the book signings at the Putnam Historical Society and the Arc Emporium in Woodstock. We are very pleased with the response to the booklet. The comments we’ve received from readers have been extremely positive. With the upcoming holiday season, the book is an excellent gift idea and requests for purchases are arriving daily,” said Miller.

“The Flood of 1955” relates Coderre’s experiences as a 14-year-old young man who witnessed firsthand the disastrous event that occurred on Aug. 19, 1955. The booklet, with the foreword written by Society President Miller, takes the reader from the Putnam Centennial celebration in June 1955, through the days of the flood, to present day Putnam. The booklet includes photos of the Centennial celebration and epic photos of the flood and its aftermath.

The upcoming book signings and conversation with the author are scheduled for — Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at Westview Commons in Dayville; Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Thompson Community Center and Library in North Grosvenordale, at 6 p.m. (the public is invited at no charge.); the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam, date and time in December to be determined; and the Veterans Coffee House at the Putnam Lodge of Elks at a yet to be determined date in January 2026.

“I’m overjoyed and awed by the requests we’ve received to purchase the booklet. Sales have already exceeded 150 with more in print. I feel strongly that events such as the flood and other historical occasions should be recorded in print for the generations who’ll follow us. The positive feedback is most gratifying,” noted Coderre.

Booklets may be purchased directly at the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam in the Municipal Complex on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday until 2 p.m.; at the Putnam Public Library; The Thompson Historical Society Gift Shop on the Thompson Common or by calling 860-942-7243 or by email at rpcassociates@snet.net.

“These books make great Christmas stocking stuffers!” noted President John Miller.

All proceeds from the sale of the booklet go directly to the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam. To date, the Society has received more than \$2,500.



Courtesy
Former 29th District State Senator and longtime Connecticut State Senate President pro tem Donald Williams congratulates Ronald P. Coderre, author of “The Flood of 1955,” as Coderre prepares to address a personalized message to Williams on his purchase of the booklet.

Northeastern CT Knights of Columbus, Danielson Elks to hold free ‘Coats for Kids’ program in Putnam

PUTNAM — Bring your child to get a free, new, warm winter coat on Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 3 until 8 p.m., at the Cargill Council 64 Knights of Columbus Hall, 68 Providence St. in Putnam.

The area’s Knights of Columbus and Danielson Elks Lodge 1706 will be giving away new winter coats in various colors for boys and girls, in toddler’s, children’s and teen sizes. They will also have free, used winter coats in good condition available for men and women.

The program is free and open to anyone in need, with no obligation. For information, please call (860) 928-5873 (do not text).

Day Kimball CEO selected to Hartford Business Journal’s 2025 Power 25 Health Care List



PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) is proud to announce that Chief Executive Officer Kyle Kramer has been included in the Hartford Business Journal’s (HBJ) 2025 Power 25 Health Care class, which identifies lead-

ers who have had a significant impact on the industry and public health as chosen and ranked by the publication’s editorial team.

Since 2020, Kramer has led Day Kimball through the financial and operational challenges facing small, independent hospitals. Most recently, advancing discussions with UCONN Health on a potential partnership and investing in key service areas, including cardiology, digestive health, and orthopedics. He has also remained committed to preserving essential services like Northeast Connecticut’s only birthing center.

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons, and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.



Courtesy
Putnam Mayor Barney Seney awards the “Business of the Year” award to James and Sheila Frost of the Courthouse Bar and Grill.

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Marianapolis’ Dillon Guilbault signs NLI with Husson University

THOMPSON — Dillon Guilbault, a senior from Pomfret, signed his National Letter of Intent to play lacrosse for Husson University on Monday, Nov. 17.

Guilbault’s experience with lacrosse dates back eight years, and he has been playing on an official team for four years now.

He says, “I first learned about the game of lacrosse in 2017, watching the New England Black Wolves play at Mohegan Sun. From then on, I’ve been in love with the game.”

A standout contributor on the field, Guilbault played an essential role in help-

ing the Marianapolis boys’ lacrosse program achieve its first winning season in program history last year. This is an accomplishment he marks as one of his most meaningful memories.

Guilbault credits lacrosse’s culture and camaraderie as key motivators for his enjoyment of the sport.

“What I enjoy is the camaraderie and the ‘Band of Brothers’ mindset that comes with the game,” he shares. “It truly is the textbook definition of a team sport.”

As he prepares for his senior season this spring, Guilbault would like to express his gratitude to

those who have shaped his journey and hopes to further elevate the Marianapolis lacrosse program.

“I would like to thank all of my coaches, past, present, and future, for all the work they’ve done with me developing my lacrosse skills, along with my character and integrity,” he says.

Former teammate and Marianapolis alum Miles Wesolowski ’25 praises Guilbault’s commitment and potential, commenting, “Over the years, I’ve had the opportunity to watch Dillon grow not just as a lacrosse player, but as a person and a leader as well. Dillon is someone who truly

loves the game and puts in the work when no one’s watching. I’m confident that he’s going to do great things this upcoming season for Marianapolis and at Husson!”

In his upcoming lacrosse career at Husson University, Guilbault shares, “I’m excited to be playing at Husson because it is a truly great program. They’re a very interconnected and well-rounded team. The coaching staff has been nothing but kind to my family and me. I’m looking forward to continuing my lacrosse career and strengthening my skills within the game, along with building a new sense of camaraderie

with a new group of players.”

Husson University, located in Bangor, Maine, is a

Division III school playing in the North Atlantic Conference.



Dillon Guilbault

Marianapolis’ Bella Miele signs with Saint Anselm College



Bella Miele

THOMPSON — Bella Miele, a senior from Marlborough, Massachusetts, signed her National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Saint Anselm College on Monday, Nov. 17.

Basketball has been a lifelong passion for Miele, who began playing “since [she] was little.” Over the years, the sport has become a deeply personal outlet as well as a competitive pursuit.

“Basketball has been my safe place, and I love the sport,” she says.

Miele’s connections with her teammates have been especially meaningful, as being around them brings her happiness and they consistently make her laugh. The

bond and joy within the program have shaped some of her favorite memories. As she prepares for her final season with the Golden Knights, Miele says she is most excited about the time she will spend with her teammates and coaches.

Signing a Division II commitment represents the fulfillment of a dream Miele has worked toward for many years. Miele’s decision to play at Saint Anselm College was rooted in a sense of belonging and excitement about the opportunities ahead.

“I am excited to play at Saint Anselm because I will meet new people and play the sport I love at a high-level game,” she shares. “I loved the school, campus, team, and coaches, and it was just a perfect fit for me.”

The guidance and support Miele has received throughout her high school basketball career has been more than she could have ever asked for.

“I would like to say thank you to all the coaches here at Marianapolis for supporting me and pushing me to be my best,” Miele says.

Marianapolis Girls’ Varsity Basketball Coach, Wes Howard, praised Bella’s exceptional work ethic, character, and impact on the program, commenting, “Bella has been such a pleasure to work with. She’s certainly incredibly skilled, but she is also such a hardworking and coachable player. Bella has always been ready to do whatever it takes for the team to be successful and do it without a second thought. I’m both grateful and proud that Bella has spent her last two years of high school representing our Marianapolis program and community. We are excited to cheer her on next year at Saint Anselm and have every confidence that she will continue to excel!”

In her upcoming basketball career at Saint Anselm College, Miele shares, “I am looking forward to making new friends and winning games.” Saint Anselm College, located in Manchester, New Hampshire, is a Division II school playing in the Northeast-10 Conference.

Eva Monahan named Little East Women’s Basketball Rookie of the Week

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Rhode Island College freshman forward Eva Monahan from Woodstock was named the Little East Women’s Basketball Rookie of the Week for her performance in the Anchorwomen’s, 58-57, win over MIT on Nov. 22.

She totaled 15 points, on 6-for-6 shooting from the field and a 3-for-3 performance from the free throw line, to go along with four rebounds and a block in the win over the Engineers.

Monahan has played in five games, starting all of them. She is averaging 8.8 ppg and 7.2 rpg.

Head Coach Jenna Cosgrove’s team is 5-1 overall.

Thongsouvanh of Danielson competes with Regis Field Hockey

WESTON, Mass. — Salena Thongsouvanh, Class of 2027, and the Regis College Field Hockey team recently completed the 2025 season.

The Pride concluded their 2025 season with an overall record of 4-13 and 2-8 in Great Northeast Athletic Conference action.

“The Field Hockey team put together an outstanding season, and we are so proud of all they accomplished,” said Pam Roecker, Dean of Athletics. “Their hard work and dedication truly embodied the Pride spirit.”

Thongsouvanh is majoring in Nursing at Regis College. The Pride are led by head coach, Mary Nee.



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Marianapolis’ Sienna Stawiecki signs letter of intent with Pace University



THOMPSON, Conn. — Sienna Stawiecki, a senior from Dudley, signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball for Pace University on Monday, Nov. 17.

Stawiecki, a standout pitcher and leader within the Marianapolis softball program, has been involved in the sport since the age of five, beginning with T-ball, town teams, and later launching a successful travel ball career at the age of 12. Throughout her time at Marianapolis, she has made lasting friendships and found a community that feels like home.

Stawiecki’s love for the game is powered by energy and unity.

“The energy brought into the sport is something truly admirable,” she says. “Energy is what makes this game so special. Hying up your teammates for a big win is what I look forward to when I step on the field, and I love to lead with my actions and words.”

Throughout her Marianapolis softball career, Stawiecki has delivered unforgettable moments on the field. Three moments in particular stand out to her the most.

“The first is throwing a no-hitter as a freshman, which hasn’t been done in over 10 years,” she shares. “The second is hitting a home run in a playoff game that lifted my team to a 2-0 lead, and we ended up winning 6-4. Lastly, all the bus rides with my best friends are something I will never forget.”

Signing with a nationally ranked program like Pace University, currently 4th in Division II softball, is a milestone that holds deep meaning.

“This Division II commitment means more to me than I can express,” says Stawiecki, “as only a certain percent of high school athletes are able to play at the next level. Being able to add my talents to an already talented roster is something I look forward to in my future.”

As Stawiecki looks ahead to her final season at Marianapolis, she is excited for one last run with her teammates.

“I’m looking forward to a good season with a great group of girls,” she says. “Having new and returning talent is truly exciting, and we’re hoping to bring home a championship this season!”

Stawiecki’s coaches at Marianapolis and beyond have contributed to her development over the years. She would like to personally thank Coach Jim, Coach Kelly, Coach Nate, Coach Dave, Coach Tyler, Coach Cady, and everyone at Planet Fastpitch for their mentorship and support.

Marianapolis Varsity Softball Coach Jim Baca, commends Stawiecki’s leadership and drive: “Sienna Stawiecki is a player who leads by example. She is a true team leader, whether by being a captain on the field or exemplifying the dedication and hard work it takes to achieve your goals off the field. Pace University is lucky to have her joining their roster, and I can’t wait to see her do great things. Congratulations, Sienna.”

Looking ahead to her softball career at Pace University, Stawiecki is eager to embrace new experiences and challenges.

“I’m looking forward to all the collegiate games I have the privilege to take part in, as well as all the friendships I will make along the way,” she says. “Being part of an amazing program is something I’m really looking forward to.”

Pace University, with two main campuses located in New York City and Pleasantville, N.Y., is a Division II school playing in the Northeast-10 Conference.

An extraterrestrial visitor

Inclement Weather:
In case of snow, freezing rain or mixed precipitation please listen to WINY for notices about the Killingly Historical Center closings. You may also call the Center’s phone about 10:15 a.m. or later and see if anyone answers.

Holiday Music Sing-Along with Harmonie Road: Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6-7 p.m., Putnam Public Library. Join Kevin and Gary St. Jean for an evening of holiday music. Song lyrics will be provided. All are welcome.

The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open by appointment. For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

BUY A SPECIAL GIFT FOR A LOVED ONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society has books, maps, postcards, photos, tote bags, gift memberships and gift certificates for sale. Shop Wednesday and Saturday 10-4 during the Historical Center’s regular hours. Images of America Killingly and Images of America Killingly Revisited are also available at Pourings and Passages bookstore in Danielson during its regular hours of operation.

Did you know that a meteorite fell in Weston in December, 1807? I’m still looking for tidbits about what life might have been like for Killingly’s Mary Dixon Kies and what news events she might have discussed so I try to read what I can find about the early 1800’s especially in New England. I happened to read about the meteorite a few weeks ago in Cathryn J. Prince’s A Professor, a President & a Meteor and thought you might find the event quite interesting. The Weston History & Culture Center Web site gave this summary:

“At 6:30 on the morning of December 14, 1807, a blazing fireball about two-thirds the size of the moon was seen traveling southwards by early risers in Vermont and Massachusetts. Three loud explosions were heard over the town of Weston in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Stone fragments fell in at least six places.

“Two or three days later, Benjamin Silliman (a Yale chemistry professor) heard of it, dropped everything he was doing and, with Professor James L.



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Kingsley, immediately went to Weston to investigate. They visited every locality where stones had been reported to fall and interviewed many eyewitnesses. Several large stones, including one of about 200 pounds (91 kilograms), had been smashed to bits on the rocky ground. Others were smashed

by the finders: ‘Strongly impressed with the idea that these stones contained gold and silver, they subjected them to all the tortures of ancient alchemy, and the goldsmith’s crucible, the forge, and the blacksmith’s anvil, were employed in vain to elicit riches which existed only in the imagination.’ With difficulty Silliman and Kingsley managed to procure fragments of each stone that had fallen, and came away with “a considerable number of specimens.”

On Dec. 29, they published a detailed description in the Connecticut Herald of the fireball, the explosions (heard more than 40 miles [64 kilometers] away), and the fall of the stones. The description was quickly reprinted in other publications. A revised version—with a chemical

analysis of the meteorite made by Silliman, the first to be performed in this country and among the first few in the world—was read before the American Philosophical Society in March 1808, and published in its Transactions the following year. ‘The case was deemed so interesting and important that the published account was read aloud in the Philosophical Society of London & in the Academy of Sciences of Paris. It was admitted to be one of the most extensive and best attested occurrences of the kind that has happened and of which a record has been preserved.’

Christmas is a-comin’, and the goose is getting fat; please, put a penny in the old man’s hat.” Christmas lights and decorations abound, and I love how they help dispel the darkness of December. I collect small Nativities, stars, and angels which I have started to put out. I also love Christmas music. There’s something for every taste and mood.

Do you know what the oldest Christmas carol is? I didn’t so I did an internet search. AI provided the following: “The oldest Christmas hymn is “Angel’s Hymn” (c. 129 AD), while the oldest surviving Christmas carol with

both preserved lyrics and a melody is “Corde natus ex Parentis” (c. 4th or 5th century), also known as “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”. The following is the first refrain from Word and Song (2016) from World Library Publications: “Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be, Christ the Alpha and Omega; Christ the source, the ending he, Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore.”

I’m sure many of you are much more familiar with the song we sing every Advent, O Come, O Come Emmanuel. “The history of the hymn ‘O Come, O Come, Emmanuel’ is rooted in medieval monastic practices, with its origins in the 8th or 9th century as a series of verses called the ‘O Antiphons’ sung during Advent. In the 8th and 9th centuries, monks sang a different antiphon (a responsive chant) each day from December 17 to 23 to prepare for Christmas. Each verse began with the word “O” and a different scriptural title for the Messiah, such as “O Sapientia” (O Wisdom) and “O Emmanuel” (O God with us). In the 12th century, a poet unknown to history took these seven verses and turned them into a single metrical poem in Latin, which would even-

tually become the hymn’s text. The tune is traced to a 15th-century French manuscript. In 1851, Anglican minister John Mason Neale translated the Latin poem into English, publishing it in his collection Medieval Hymns and Sequences. The English version was first published in the Church of England’s official hymnal in 1861 and has since been adopted by many denominations. The version we sing today is a combination of Neale’s 1851 translation and the older French melody. The hymn combines the themes of the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah with the fulfillment of those prophecies in the New Testament birth of Christ.” (AI). If you love holiday music, come to the Sing-Along at Putnam Library on Wednesday, December 10 as mentioned at the beginning of the article. I hope to be there!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, December 2025. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook (www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety).

See the good in every day

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

With these fun holidays upon us, I think of the great gift we all share: living in the Quiet Corner.

Having traveled across the country, I’ve observed the subtle yet distinct differences that characterize our various regions. From the intense cold experienced in states like Minnesota to the significant heat and humidity of Florida and the unique desert landscapes of Arizona, these regional variations are undeniable.

It’s interesting to note that if you were to view our part of the country on Google Earth, you would see a continuous streak of light stretching from Boston to New York. However, there’s a particular exception: a noticeable dark area right here in northeast Connecticut where our little towns are uniquely quieter.

When I was in college in the Hartford area, and I drove out here with my friends, they would com-

ment, “You can’t get there from here,” because we had to leave the highway to take Route 44 to Northeast Connecticut. Over the years, I have heard people say that Connecticut was just a bathroom stop on the drive from New York City to Boston, but they also commented on the Gold Coast of Stamford and Greenwich, where all the wealthy people lived. I now disagree.

Growing up in Norwich, we rarely traveled up this way, and I never knew there were actually towns above Jewett City. Now, in each year of my life, I feel like the Quiet Corner enriches us with so many gems that we are rich beyond belief. I think we live a “Goldilocks” lifestyle here. Not too big, or too small, never too hot or too cold, rural but not isolated, historic, yet filled with action, and to me, it’s



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just right.

Here are just some of the many things we delight in here.

The scenery encompasses the natural and the man-made: not only the lush lakes, the rich greenness (according to my son, who lives in the dry scrub of LA) of summer trees and grass, the stunning colors of fall, and the rolling hills filled with numerous stone walls, but also the town greens, the beauty of our parks, the church steeples, and even a boxcar museum—an absolutely charming combination. Sometimes I feel like we live in a storybook rather than a historical museum, even though we have those here, too.

I could be tempted by warm winters down south because I live to celebrate our summers by eating outside at the Vanilla Bean, swimming in a warm pool, and watching fireworks

on the Fourth of July. I love fall’s brilliant colors, and we even have our own pumpkin fest and zombie fashion show.

We celebrate the winter with a Disney-esque light parade that delights residents of all ages, and get our photo taken in the giant Christmas ornament in Rotary Park. Putnam’s downtown is still Connecticut’s antique mecca. I personally love browsing these stores, even though I only collect vintage comics. After the hard reset of winter, we glory in the spring with the blooming of tulips and daffodils as the earth warms and our season of rebirth occurs. My wife says this is the best time to visit her special Woodstock nursery to ready our yard for summer.

We even have a local celebrity mayor who, in March, dresses in his St. Patrick’s best and does the Macarena with everyone at the senior dances. Local, kind, and genuine people donate generously and give

their time willingly to so many great causes, like a food and clothing bank. We have great local libraries and even celebrity local radio station owners who take immense pride in our local towns.

Northeast Connecticut has a 15-Minute Rule: You are 15 minutes from a cow pasture and 15 minutes from an artisanal coffee shop, vineyard, or brewery. In minutes, you can be in our local playhouse or throwing axes just down the road. We delight in the talent of our local musicians and artists, and we even have a giant mural fest to look forward to.

Over the years, many young adults told me they are chomping at the bit to leave northeast CT and go where the action is. Often, many of them gladly return here once they have a family and want the comfort and safety that our beloved, quiet corner offers. They tell me they missed the smell of fireplaces burning and fresh-cut grass. The ocean is only an hour

away and not a plane ride. We don’t live in the land of hedge funds and high-stress commuting; we live in a place that is affordable, unpretentious, friendly, and community-oriented. If you need more culture, it is a very short hop to Boston and New York City.

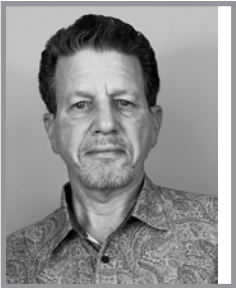
I hope you love this area as much as I do and you agree with the points I have made. I happen to be one of the luckiest people I know because we have great children, loving grandchildren, and many, many dear friends. I enjoy quotes, and here are a few of my favorites: “Success is getting what you want.” Happiness is wanting what you get.” Yes, I love northeast Connecticut, and you can paint me with “an attitude of gratitude.” Other parts of the country might be bigger, warmer, or busier, but I think Putnam is “just right.”

Mike Bogdanski is a martial arts Grandmaster and anti-bully activist.

See the good in every day

In the ‘60s-‘80s, God used a man named Rev. Billy Cole to do large meetings where thousands were healed and baptized with the Holy Spirit. He obviously had a gift of faith. I was in a number of meetings that Rev. Cole ministered in. One of them was a conference in TX where 500 people received the Holy Spirit, including my own son.

He had such a reputation that whenever I was attended a meeting where he spoke, I made a point of watching what he did in order to see the mighty moves of God. In one par-



**BEYOND
THE PEWS
BY BISHOP
JOHN W.
HANSON
ACTS II
MINISTRIES**

ticular meeting of ministers, I was surprised when he shared his secret. He said, “I find out where God is doing a work and I show up.” In other words, it was not about conjuring something up, it was about following the Spirit.

After watching him operate in many venues I noticed his primary meth-

od: He would almost always tell stories to connect with the audience and to build faith. And he would often use the same stories.

He spoke of the blind seeing and the lame walking

He told about the dead being raised

He described the healing of lepers

He shared stories about God’s protection and intervention

It was not about being eloquent or clever, it was about inspiring faith. I learned that effective ministry and faith-building is not a matter of skill or performance; it is a matter of

faith. We can help others believe by simply being witnesses as to what He does.

Another way to say it is: You and I are contemporary evidence that God does what he promised thousands of years when Isaiah foretold Jesus’ death. He said, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” — Isaiah 53:4-5

One of my favorite Bible stories is found in John chapter 9. It demonstrates how God uses people’s personal experiences to affect their friends, family, and community. It is the story of a man who was born blind. Jesus healed him and it caused quite a stir in his hometown. The religious community tried to get the healed man to deny what had happened, because they did not like the success Jesus was having. As they publicly accused Jesus of being a sinner and pressured the man, he answered like this: “I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!” — John 9:25

God is still looking for people who will find out what He is doing and become a part of it. God’s plan to change the world has always included finding people are willing to simply believe and obey. This allows God to bless and heal them. As a result, their blessed life and their faith begins to affect those around them. Is that something God you are willing for God to do in your life?

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more resources or sermon videos please visit www.ActsII.org.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ VillagerNewspapers.com



Christmas tree alternatives that provide year-round beauty



Melinda Myers

Lemon cypress trees surrounded by poinsettias create a festive holiday display.

When looking for a unique holiday tree this season consider adding a plant you can enjoy now and throughout the year. Select a larger specimen to use as

a floor plant, adding dramatic scale to your indoor décor. Smaller plants can be placed on tabletops throughout the house to add a bit of extra cheer in any room.

Transform a weeping fig, rubber tree or fiddle-leaf fig into a holiday tree with a few lights, garland and ornaments. All three

of these make great additions to an indoor garden and their tree-like appearance makes them a perfect substitute for more traditional Christmas trees.

Grow them in bright, indirect light with evenly moist but not soggy wet soil. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Or place pebbles in the saucer to elevate the pot above the water, creating a gravel tray. The excess water will evaporate, increasing humidity around the plant. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and be prepared for some leaf drop on the weeping fig with a change in the seasons or growing conditions. It will survive and eventually send out new leaves.

Consider a Norfolk Island pine when looking for something that looks more like a pine tree. You will often find them decorated and sold for the holidays in garden centers and floral shops. Or add your own decorations for the festive look you prefer.

Grow Norfolk Island pine in a cool, well-lit location that's free of drafts of hot and cold air. Regularly turn the plant to encourage even

GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

growth. Avoid dry air and keep the soil evenly moist to retain green, flexible and healthy needles and branches. Boost the humidity around this and other plants while reducing maintenance by using a gravel tray.

Purchase Rosemary wreaths and tree topiaries for a festive as well as fragrant and edible addition to the holidays. Just give the leaves a pet to enjoy the fragrance as it boosts your spirits. Pluck a sprig or two to add flavor to your winter meals and beverages.

Growing Rosemary indoors can be challenging so don't let past failures stop you from trying. Experiment until you find the location and maintenance routine that keeps your plant thriving. Grow it in a sunny window or under artificial lights and water thoroughly as the soil begins to dry. If the plant turns brown, move it out of sight to the back of your indoor garden. It still smells

good when you give it a pet and only you will know.

Lemon Cypress makes a great miniature holiday tree, centerpiece or gift for a friend. The fragrant chartreuse foliage of this dwarf evergreen continues to brighten your winter décor long after the holidays are over. Grow it in a sunny window and turn it occasionally to encourage even growth. You'll have the best results if you keep it in a cool location free from cold and hot air drafts.

Investing in one of these plants is sure to brighten your spirits and holiday décor. With proper care you can continue to enjoy them year-round and for next year's holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Latest auction news

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! While most of us were out grocery shopping and cleaning up after the big meal, some major auctions were in the headlines.

Famous puppets made news when Jim Henson's puppets and memorabilia auction took place late last month. Henson was the beloved creator of the "Muppets." Henson's "Crystal of Truth" from "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance" sold for \$89,600, according to the UPI, while Miss Piggy's high heels went for \$22,400. The auction brought in \$2.6 million total, which will be used to preserve Henson's archives.

A major piece of art that saved a woman during the Holocaust broke a modern art record last month. Gustav Klimt's "Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer" was painted over three years from 1916 to 1918. It depicts the daughter of one of Vienna's wealthiest families wearing an Asian Emperor's cloak. When Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938, they raided the Lederer's art collection. "Elisabeth Lederer made up a story that Klimt, who was not Jewish and died in 1918, was her father," according to AP News. She convinced the Nazis to give her a document stating that she was Klimt's daughter, which spared her life. Some of Klimt's works burned in a fire in an Austrian castle, making the existing works more valuable. The painting is one of two full length portraits in private hands. The sale surpassed the previous record for 20th century art held by an Andy Warhol portrait of Marilyn Monroe, which brought \$195 million in 2022. "Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer" sold for a record \$236.4 million.

A different type of art also made news recently, with a rare Fabergé egg coming to auction.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE
TUISKULA

"Peter Carl Fabergé and his company created more than 50 of the eggs for Russia's imperial family between 1885 and 1917, each elaborately unique and containing a hidden surprise," according to CBS News. Czar Alexander III gifted an egg to his wife every Easter. Nicholas II continued the tradition by presenting eggs to his wife and mother. A four-inch-tall "Winter egg" was carved from carved rock crystal, featuring platinum snowflake decorations and 4,500 rose-cut diamonds. When open, it reveals bejeweled quartz flowers symbolizing spring. There are currently 43 known Fabergé eggs, and most are in museums. The "Winter egg" was originally sold when Russia was struggling in the 1920s and selling off artifacts. A London antique dealer purchased the egg for £400,

which is a little under \$700 at current exchange rates. It exchanged hands several times and was once thought to be lost for decades until being sold in 1994 for 7 million Swiss francs (\$5.6 million at exchange rates then). It was resold for \$9.6 million in 2002. The current auction record for a Fabergé egg is \$18.5 million from a 2007 sale. This egg is expected to crack that record with a \$26 million estimate.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

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Holiday Toy Drive underway at Thompson Town Hall

THOMPSON — Thompson Town Hall will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys throughout the holiday season, to benefit both TEEG and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

As a way to reach as many of the needy children of Northeast Connecticut as possible, the Town will collect for distribution by TEEG from Monday, Dec. 1 through Friday, Dec. 12. Because the Marine Corps Toys for Tots has the flexibility to distribute all the way up to the Christmas weekend, toys collected in the week before the holiday, Monday 15 December through Friday 19 December, will be donated to the national organization, for distribution through their Willimantic site.

The donation boxes will be located in the offices of the Tax Collector and the Town Clerk, and toys will be collected through the close of office hours at Town Hall on Friday, 19 December.

Toys for all age groups will be accepted, from infants through teenagers. Neither TEEG nor Toys for Tots publishes a list of recommended gifts; however, the Marine Corp Toys for Tots program will not distribute donations of realistic-looking weapons or gifts containing food or other perishables, according to the organization's policies. When considering the age of the child

who will receive your gift, please be aware that tweens and teenagers are often underserved by many charitable toy drives.

The Town of Thompson is proud to be continue their relationship with two outstanding organizations, spreading the holiday spirit where it is needed most.



ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?
If not we may be able to help.

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Charles A. Birbara, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674

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WILSON

continued from page A1

diagrams for approximately 100 hospital area buildings. Working as a team with one civilian, Airman Wilson was required to detect all National Electrical Code Violations and correct the discrepancies such as over fusing, faulty connections, poor splices and taping and replacing of badly overloaded conductors. In the course of the survey, Airman Wilson was required to work alone in building inspections, code violations, and preparation of the riser diagram.

According to his Commander, Lt. Col. Frank W. Bailey, USAF, “Airman First Class Vernon Wilson’s diligent efforts and devotion to duty, together with the many other qualities he conducted himself with; will long be remembered by those with whom you have worked and associated.”

He went on to state that it is “with great pleasure that I endorse this letter to you Airman First Class Wilson, denoting the fine service you have rendered during your assignment to the United State Air Force.”

Airman First Class Vernon Wilson was honorably discharged from the Air Force on March 20, 1955. For his exceptional service, AFC Vernon Wilson was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Wilson was born in Worcester, Mass. on April 13, 1931. He graduated from Bartlett High School, Class of 1949. In 1952, he was married to his life- long friend who became his wife for 73 years, Felicia Makuski. Felicia was a St. Louis High School Graduate. Sadly, he lost his wife earlier this year. Together, they shared a long loving lifetime together. They moved to their impeccable home on Denis Drive in 1958 where Vernon still resides 67 years later. Together, Vernon and Felicia raised three beautiful daughters (Diane Bennett of Worcester, Mass., Linda Campbell, living in Ohio, and Nancy Delaquila of Pennsylvania). They were blessed, and have enjoyed seven awesome grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Vernon and Felicia were very active lifetime members of the St. Louis Parish Council in Webster. They were also extremely involved with The Parish “Couple to Couple Ministry” at their Church. In addition, Vernon was also a long time Eucharistic Minister at St. Louis Church. Vernon is a long- time member of the Webster Elks Club and a Past Exalted Ruler of the Club. Vernon is also an active member of the American Legion Club in Murels Inlet, South Carolina. In addition, he is a lifetime member of the Murels Inlet, S.C. (VFW) Veterans of Foreign Wars. It was in Murels Inlet South Carolina that Vernon and his Family had vacationed at their Winter home and enjoyed spending many happy Family times for 30 years. Much of that time was enjoyed with Felicia playing at many of the well- known pristine Myrtle Beach Golf Courses numerous times each week. Vernon was also a long-time member of the Quinnatisset Country Club in Thompson. He just relinquished his membership a few years ago. He proudly stated to me that he has recorded 3 holes in one during his illustrious his golf career. The first was recorded at his Quinnatisset Club and two were accomplished in Myrtle Beach.

An all-around sportsman and handy man, Vernon built his own 24-foot bass boat to use for his love of deep-sea fishing. He frequently took fishing expeditions to Plymouth, Mass. and Charleston, R.I. and wherever the fish were biting. Vernon could also often be seen on his sail boat, sailing the shores of his beloved Lake Chargoggagoggmanchaggagogchaubunagungamaugg also known as Webster Lake. Vernon and Felicia would wave hands to their many Lake friends as they sailed along enjoying and embracing life on the Lake. A full, long life well lived, Vernon.

TROT

continued from page A1

we had cleaned up. It was warm and it was perfect.”

This year’s event featured 197 runners, one short of matching the record set in 2012. While the event lost some sponsors, new ones came in to fill the gaps eventually making it one of the events most successful years in terms of sponsorships. While the final total wasn’t available for the EDC’s November meeting, Loffredo said it was enough to provide an estimated \$7,000 to each of the three beneficiary organizations,

Putnam High School announces honor roll

PUTNAM — Putnam High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Freshmen: Emma Benoit, Dakota Bibeau, Annaliese Brytowski, Blake Daughenbaugh, Michael Eroshkin, Keishlyanne Garcia Lopez, Maya Gustavesen, Leon Johnson, Sydney Kaliszewski, Alamgir Khan, Lillian Morton, Katherine Partlow, Liam Purdon, Kaylee Roberts, Gage Robitaille, Gracie Rybacki, Wesley Schulman, Avery Thornton, Caleb Ward
Sophomores: Kaitlin Brodeur, Amy Charron, Laura Coderre, Abigail Daniels, Alyssa Daniels, Daniel DiNola, Eliza Garvey, Sophie Godzik, Caleb LaFrance, Devin LeBeau, Haleigh Lynch, Jayda Rivera, Angelina Seymour, Mya Smith, Logan Walker, Gavin Weiker
Juniors: Delanie Bernier, Mia Cosentino, Ayla Daniels, Leland Fisher, Avah Grimshaw, Sidra Jahangir, Logan Marciano, Emmelee Masterson, Aubrey Paquette, Jay Patel, Nathaniel Ramos, Jillian Spalding, Savannah Zegarra

up by a thousand dollars each from last year.
“I’m just thrilled with the response from businesses. There were at least, I think, three new sponsors that came on board. We actually lost about ten sponsors from last year, but we made up for that,” said Loffredo
According to official results posted by Run Signup, Ben Young of Woodstock was the first overall finisher and first male to cross the finish line in the 2025 Turkey Trot with a clock time of 20:28. Leah Miceli, a 12-year-old runner from Mansfield, was the first female to cross the line with a clock time of 22:50.

Seniors: Leah Benzie, Kaylee Borders, Audrina Buzanoski, Gabriell Cerasiello, Alexa DeLeon, Nicholas Devlin, Devin Fleck, Joselin Garcia Osorio, Evan Garvey, Kianna Griffin, Benjamin Gustafson, Jayce Jodoin, Aidan Martin, Cali McCaughey, Vanessa Menard, Genesis Morales, Kaydence Morris, Paige Perry, Kasyn Robillard, Marcelo Sousa Dos Santos, Madison Thomas

Honors
Freshmen: Logan Borders, Khloe Demers, Thomas Espinosa, Avery Livingston
Sophomores: Codie Baillargeon, Theodore Buzanoski, Bailey Champagne, Chloe Gazzola, Aiden Herrera, Nyla Magalhaes, Oliver Paine, Dorian Suhocke, Ryan Szarkowicz
Juniors: Sydney Barber, Danny Boriboun, Sean Brierley, Laiylah Marquez, Gavin Patterson, Keivon Robinson, Samanta Romao, Iyanah Ruiz, Dakota Trudeau, Byron Vazquez Patino
Seniors: Ella Carota, Brynn Dignam, Kenneth Goloski, Eliza Joslin, Carter Murawski, Elijah Nieves, Madalyn Parquette, Kaylin Rodrigues, Nicholas Sterling, Esteban Suarez, Jandiel Suarez



Health

FACT:

What is the name of the chart that eye doctors use to measure vision?

Answer: Snellen scale

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	4		13
9	0		17
	10	2	18
21	14	13	

2	10	9
8	0	6
3	4	9

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC

6

1884: The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is completed.

1897: London becomes the world’s first city to host licensed taxicabs.

1967: Adrian Kantrowitz performs the first human heart transplant in the United States.

NEW WORD

FOCUS

pay particular attention to

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REPCEFT NVOIIS

Answer: Perfect vision

How they say that in...

English: Sight

Spanish: Vista

Italian: Vista

French: Vue

German: Sicht

Did You Know?

Bifocal or multifocal lenses help people who have different visual impairments see clearly with one pair of eyeglasses.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Eye exam equipment

OBITUARIES

Anthony “Tony” Naines, 81



Anthony “Tony” Naines 81, of both Hayesville, North Carolina and Naples, Florida passed away Sunday, November 2, 2025 at his residence. He was a native of Woodstock, Connecticut and served in the United States Army for six years. In 1980, he moved to Naples, Florida where he was president of Loos and Company, where they manufactured commercial airline components. He served as President throughout his career until retiring in 2018. Tony loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman who traveled the world chasing elusive and exotic fish. His love of fly fishing brought him to the mountains of Western North Carolina. He was a true patriot and loved his country. Tony was a kind and caring man and always willing to help others. His sense of humor was one of his greatest attributes. He was the son of the late Joseph and Lucille Lavigne Naines. He was also

preceded in death by his first wife, Donna Naines. Surviving are his loving and devoted wife, Peggy Naines; one son, Brian Naines; one granddaughter, Kaia Williams and husband, Chris; one great-grandson, C.J. Williams; and one sister, Lucille Rucki and husband, Walter; one niece, Cheryl Lemieux and husband, Philip; one nephew, Robert Blackmer and wife, Karen; great niece, Katherine “Kat” Blackmer Fetzer; and great nephew, Michael Blackmer. The family will gather privately to honor Tony’s life. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made in memory of Anthony “Tony” Naines to Valley River Humane Society, P.O. Box 658, Murphy, North Carolina, 28906. Ivie Funeral Home, Hayesville in charge of all arrangements.



Howard Lavern “Vern” Himes, 76



Howard Lavern “Vern” Himes, 76, passed away peacefully on November 18, 2025, in Putnam, Connecticut after a long courageous battle with COPD. Born on December 31, 1948, in Milford, Connecticut, Vern was the son of Olga (Mary) Himes and Howard Marshal Himes. He spent his life in Connecticut, where he built a career as a dedicated Parts Manager for several companies specializing in industrial forklifts. Vern was known for his quick wit and sharp sense of humor. A lifelong fan of the New York Yankees, minus current coach Aaron Boone, he was also an enthusiastic follower of football; he found great joy in sports - He was an avid reader who appreciated the quiet moments spent with a good book and also playing a good game of poker with his neighborhood buddies. Later in life he like to challenge his “rock-

star” of a daughter Danielle with letting her drive and admitting she was right about the key fob battery being dead. Vern shared 20 years of marriage with his current wife, Suzanne M. (Bouchard) Himes, who he affectionally called his “Suzy Q”, together they found a love for travel. He is survived by his daughter Danielle K. (Himes) Astles; and Danielle’s spouse, Richard C. Astles; grandsons Zachary L. Smith and Travis L. Smith; and Travis’s spouse, Shea Smith along with Suzanne’s children & grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two daughters, Terri Ellen Himes and Karolyn Ann Himes; as well as by his parents. Vern’s legacy lives on through the memories shared by those who knew him—as a husband, father, grandfather, colleague, and friend. A Celebration of Life Ceremony will be held for family & friends on December 6th, 2025, from 11am to 2pm at Briarwood Falls Community Center, 16 Mockingbird Drive, Danielson, CT. tillinghastfh.com

Debra Greene Carabina
June 18, 1955 – November 30, 2025



Woodstock - Debra Greene Carabina, beloved spouse, mother, and friend , passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 30, 2025, at the age of 70. Born on June 18, 1955, in Putnam, CT, Debra was the youngest child of Doris and Leslie Greene. Debra spent all of her life in the Quiet Corner that she loved so much. Debra spent the majority of her life working as a dedicated elementary teacher in Killingly, CT at Killingly Memorial School. Over 30 years, Debra touched so many lives and made a lasting impression on all her students from such a small age. Whether it was kindergarten or second grade, Debra’s students always remembered her teachings for years to come. After retiring, Debra began volunteering in her local community. She spent time reading to children at the Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Children’s Museum in Putnam, CT. Her newest obsession was volunteering with the Women’s Board of Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, CT in the Hospital Gift Shop. She was often their best customer, bringing home new decor every week for her family and friends.

In her spare time, Debra enjoyed shopping with friends, going to concerts and plays, reading, and collecting seashells on the beach. Throughout her life, Debra had such a love for animals, especially her Goldendoodle, Albus, and her Persian, Galileo who will miss her dearly. Debra is survived by her husband George Carabina of 45 years, her daughter Meghan and her husband Don Curtis, her son Antonio and his fiancée Josh Hoffman, two brothers Richard and Colin Green and their wives Joan and Linda, respectively, sister Joyce Sears, sister-in-law Rita Carabina, a special nephew Matthew Carabina, a longtime special friend Karin Tourtellotte, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins, all of whom she loved deeply. Calling hour will take place on Monday December 8, 2025, at 10am followed by the funeral service at 11am at St Constantine and Helen, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA 01570. Burial to follow at West Thompson Cemetery located in West Thompson, CT. Guests are welcome to attend and celebrate Debra. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any memorial donations be made to St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



Thompson – Scott C. Shea, 76, of Hiawatha Drive, passed away unexpectedly on November 20, 2025. He was the loving husband of the late Karen (Rider) Shea. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late John and Lois (Carpenter) Shea. Scott graduated with his bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Technology from Kent State University. During his time there he acquired his pilot’s license and loved to fly small aircrafts. He also met the love of his life, Karen. They married on July 14, 1973. He went on to be a test engineer at Motorola for many years before retiring. In his spare time Scott

enjoyed working on cars, boating, water skiing, fixing anything that was broken and spending time with his family. Scott loved music, and in his youth played guitar in a band he formed with his friends. Scott is survived by his two daughters, Valerie Shea of Norwich, CT., and Jill Shea; grandson, Daniel Larose; granddaughter, Charlotte Thomas, as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. Scott is predeceased by sister, Lorea Shea. Services are private and entrusted to Gilman & Valade Funeral Homes and Crematory. Memorial donations may be made in Scott’s memory to the ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St., New York, NY 10128 or to your local no kill animal shelter. For memorial guestbook visit [www. GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com)

TEACHERS
continued from page A1

ed for his calm demeanor with students which earned him the title of “Most Chill” teacher at the school. “Mr. Sullivan has created a classroom environment built on respect, encouragement, and hands-on learning,” read his proclamation. “Mr. Sullivan’s commitment to helping his students reach their full potential, both in and out of the classroom, has led many of his gradu-

ating seniors to secure successful career placements in the automotive field.” The third award for St. James Parochial School Teacher of the Year was presented to fourth grade teacher Lisa Boguszewski for her unwavering commitment to shaping the lives of local youth. “Ms. Boguszewski is admired for her patience, dedication, and devotion to the growth of every student, encouraging them to thrive at their own level while instilling confidence,

respect, and a love of learning,” the Council’s proclamation said. “Students deeply appreciate Ms. Boguszewski for the help, guidance, and encouragement she offers, creating a warm and welcoming classroom atmosphere where children are excited to learn each day.” All three educators were presented with physical plaques forever acknowledging their accomplishments as standout educators helping inspire the future of Killingly.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Walter N McNally (25-00433)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
David J McNally
c/o THOMAS A BORNER, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE,LLC,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,
PO BOX 166,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
December 5, 2025
Town of Woodstock PZC
On November 20, 2025, the Town of Woodstock Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decisions:
• Approved with Conditions: Application #669-10-25, Subdivision of Lot (One new lot) 306 Green Road (MLB#5703-04-16A). Applicant: Donna Lamey

• Approved with Conditions: Application #670-11-25, Subdivision Modification (Boundary Line Adjustment) 120 Tripp Road, Applicant: Dann Herindeen
Details of these approvals may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov
December 5, 2025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Richard W McArdle (25-00436)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 24, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Sandra Ann McArdle Gould
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS,
BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET,
P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
December 5, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Sarah R Hamburg (25-00438)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
David A Hamburg
c/o THOMAS A BORNER, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE,LLC,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,
PO BOX 166,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
December 5, 2025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Peter A Yargeau,
AKA Peter Alan Yargeau (25-00440)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such

claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Michael Yargeau
c/o WILLIAM R BOWLES,
WILLIAM R. BOWLES ATTORNEY AT LAW, 415 KILLINGWORTH RD, 2ND, P.O. BOX 478, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
December 5, 2025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Darlene A Purcell (25-00441)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Dominique Kintzer
c/o MATTHEW-ALAN HERMAN, LAW OFFICE OF ALAN SCOTT HERMAN, 16 SOUTH MAIN ST. P.O. B, P.O. BOX 663, PUTNAM, CT 06260
December 5, 2025



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SAVE \$1000
on doors¹

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- Our patio doors are a great option for **transforming your living space and letting more natural light into your home.**
- We provide a **fully transferable warranty that covers our windows, doors and installation.**⁴

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- ✓ **Install**
- ✓ **Warranty**

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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Renewal by Andersen Retailer is neither a broker nor a lender. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders. ³Based on testing of 5 units per ASTM E2068 30 years after installation. ⁴See the Renewal by Andersen 2010/2 limited warranty for details.